

Author's Purpose and Tone 2

English

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Then circle the answer to the question about purpose or tone. Highlight the clue you found in the text to support your answer.

(1) There are certain types of people you should not trust. (2) One type is people who tell you that God told them to ask you to send them money. (3) You know the guys I mean. (4) They get on television and say: "God told me He wants you to send me some money, say \$100, or even just \$10, if that's all you can afford, but in all honesty I must point out that God is less likely to give you some horrible disease if your gift is in the \$100 range." (5) The theory here seems to be that God talks only to the guys on television. (6) I always thought that if God needed money all that badly, He would get in touch with us directly.

1. The purpose of this paragraph is

- a. to persuade readers that they should not send money to television evangelists.
- b. to entertain readers by exaggerating points.
- c. both of the above.

2. The tone of this paragraph can be described as

- a. straightforward and serious.
- b. humorous and mocking.
- c. prayerful and respectful.
- d. sentimental and warm.

(1) Throughout history, people have suffered from ailments that could have been easily avoided if they had only been understood. (2) For instance, it used to be common for hat makers to be tortured by uncontrollable trembling, slurred speech, and mental confusion. (3) The condition led to Lewis Carroll's creation of the Mad Hatter in his book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. (4) Sadly, the hatters did not know that the mercury they used in creating felt hats was poisoning them, leading to their strange symptoms. (5) Similarly, many of the world's greatest artists suffered from terrible depression. (6) Today we know that the lead in the paint they used probably affected their mental state. (7) How tragic that so many lives were destroyed for want of a little knowledge.

3. The primary purpose of this paragraph is to

- a. to tell readers about formerly misunderstood ailments.
- b. to persuade readers to protect themselves against easily avoidable ailments.
- c. both of the above.

4. In general, the tone of this paragraph can be described as

- a. regretful.
- b. angry.
- c. alarmed.
- d. pessimistic.

(1) Al Smith, the Democratic candidate for President in 1928, was known for his ready wit and quick comebacks. (2) Once he was heckled while making a campaign speech. (3) "Tell 'em everything you know, Al," yelled the heckler. (4) "It won't take very long." (5) Al Smith answered with a grin, "I'll tell 'em everything we both know—it won't take any longer."

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- a. inform students about a humorous aspect of a historical figure.
- b. persuade people to support the Democrats.
- c. both of the above.

6. The tone of this passage can be described as

- a. forgiving.
- b. amused.
- c. bitter.
- d. disbelieving.

(1) Three people were killed because a man was angry that his girlfriend wanted to break up with him. (2) Now the state is planning to kill him, and that's as it should be. (3) Some may argue that taking a life is always wrong, that two wrongs don't make a right. (4) But there is nothing right about making taxpayers give free room and board to a person who killed innocent people. (5) And there's nothing right about putting such a dangerous person in prison, from which he will probably one day be released to again threaten society.

7. The primary purpose of this paragraph is to

- a. report on facts about the death penalty.
- b. persuade readers that the death penalty has merit.
- c. entertain readers with a description of an interesting problem.

8. The overall tone of this paragraph can be described as

- a. impassioned.
- b. insulting.
- c. compassionate and sentimental.
- d. excited and joyous.

(1) When people are unemployed, two major sources of stress come into play. (2) One is the loss of income, with all the financial hardships that this brings. (3) Suddenly there are the difficulties of paying the monthly rent or mortgage, of making the car payment and paying credit-card bills, of dealing with utility costs, and the fundamental matter of putting enough food to eat on the table. (4) The other source of stress is the effect of the loss of income on workers' feelings about themselves. (5) Workers who derive their identity from their work, men who define manhood as supporting a family, and people who define their worth in terms of their work's dollar value lose more than their paychecks when they lose their jobs. (6) They lose a piece of themselves; they lose their self-esteem.

9. The primary purpose of this paragraph is

- a. to inform readers about the major sources of stress for the unemployed.
- b. to persuade readers that unemployment should be eliminated.
- c. to amuse readers with observations about human nature.

10. The tone of this paragraph can be described as

- a. depressed and sorrowful.
- b. angry and desperate.
- c. surprised but optimistic.
- d. serious and sympathetic.